

PUBLIC NOTICE

SERVE PULASKI COUNTY UNSERVED LAST MILE BROADBAND PROJECT – Phase One

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Pulaski, Virginia is issuing this public notice of its intent to apply for a share of no more than 60% of project cost from the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development 2020 Virginia Telecommunications Initiative to construct, complete, and implement the Serve Pulaski County Unserved Last Mile Broadband Project – Phase One.

The Project will offer broadband service at speeds of 25 Mbps download and 10 Mbps upload in the Hiwassee area of the County covering Routes 100 to the West, 693 to the South, 704, 787, and 619 to the East, and Route 11 to the North. The area includes Hiwassee south of Interstate 81 north of Draper near the intersection of Lowerman Ferry Road and Chestnut Ridge Road along Beamer Hollow Road and in the Miller Lane/Jennings Road/Old Mill intersections known as the Pea Creek region. The project area also includes the southeast quadrant of the County (Shelburne Road and Burma Road area along with as Simpkins Road/Greenhouse Road/Gum Log Road areas). The Pulaski County, Virginia Community Broadband Telecommunications Planning Study Final Report dated September 30, 2016 identifies the project area and need.

The project area will pass 1,557 structures and 2,447 residents for a projected take rate of 45% (1,101 unserved customers). The broadband network will provide the necessary infrastructure including towers, fiber, and equipment to serve the project area. The main communication tower will provide Gigabit back haul speed to service area towers. A fiber solution is included to provide Gigabit speed backhaul to nearby relays and towers. Other relays will feed from service area towers. This is a hybrid network to include the best wireless communications access points for the best connection to the end user while considering terrain and foliage constraints.

The Hiwassee and Snowville fire stations are the sites for two of the project communication towers to be located. The fire stations will offer service at their locations via secured Wi-Fi connectivity to first responders. The fire stations can become future community centers or business incubator sites with Gigabit speed connections. In addition, the elementary school in the project area will be served.

The Pulaski County/ISP partnership will construct the necessary infrastructure towers and fiber to serve the project area detailed in the online application submittal to meet the September 3 deadline.

The County encourages public comment and input about this project in writing by no later than 4:00 p.m. on August 27, 2019.

Additional information about the proposed application is available in the Office of County Administrator.

Comments are to be submitted in writing to:

Board of Supervisors
County of Pulaski, Virginia
143 Third Street, NW
Pulaski, Virginia 24301-4900